



# A Conceptualization of the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Experiences with Care Trends for the Medicaid Patient

Susan Miklos, EFDA, RDH, BSDH, MSDH  
Fones School of Dental Hygiene  
University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT



## Research Question

Does the type of dental insurance coverage a patient retains impact their access to dental treatment and treatment care options?

## Methods

An anonymous survey was e-mailed to 1,300 licensed Connecticut dental hygienists to investigate if dental hygienists in Connecticut are providing treatment for patients receiving Medicaid benefits?

Survey questions investigated:

- Services provided
- The referral rate for services for the adult dental Medicaid patient
  - A focus on payments made
  - Type of payment
  - Treatment delivered and suggestions to eliminate the challenges of access to care for dental treatment for the Medicaid patient

## Conclusion

More research is warranted to further investigate access to care challenges for the adult Medicaid patient in Connecticut, to provide better access and treatment options.

## Introduction

Access to dental care for the Medicaid patient has traditionally been problematic. Published research studies document financial issues, time constraints and access challenges including treatment bias when delivering dental care to the Medicaid patient. Adult Medicaid patients experience even greater challenges (than children) when seeking dental care. An imbalance of care provided to adults versus children with Medicaid benefits is noted throughout the published literature. Obtaining oral health is a challenge for this Medicaid population. Research investigating dental Medicaid coverage and the payment environment for dental services is beneficial to the dental hygienist, to gain a better understanding of the oral health needs of this population and dental treatment modalities.

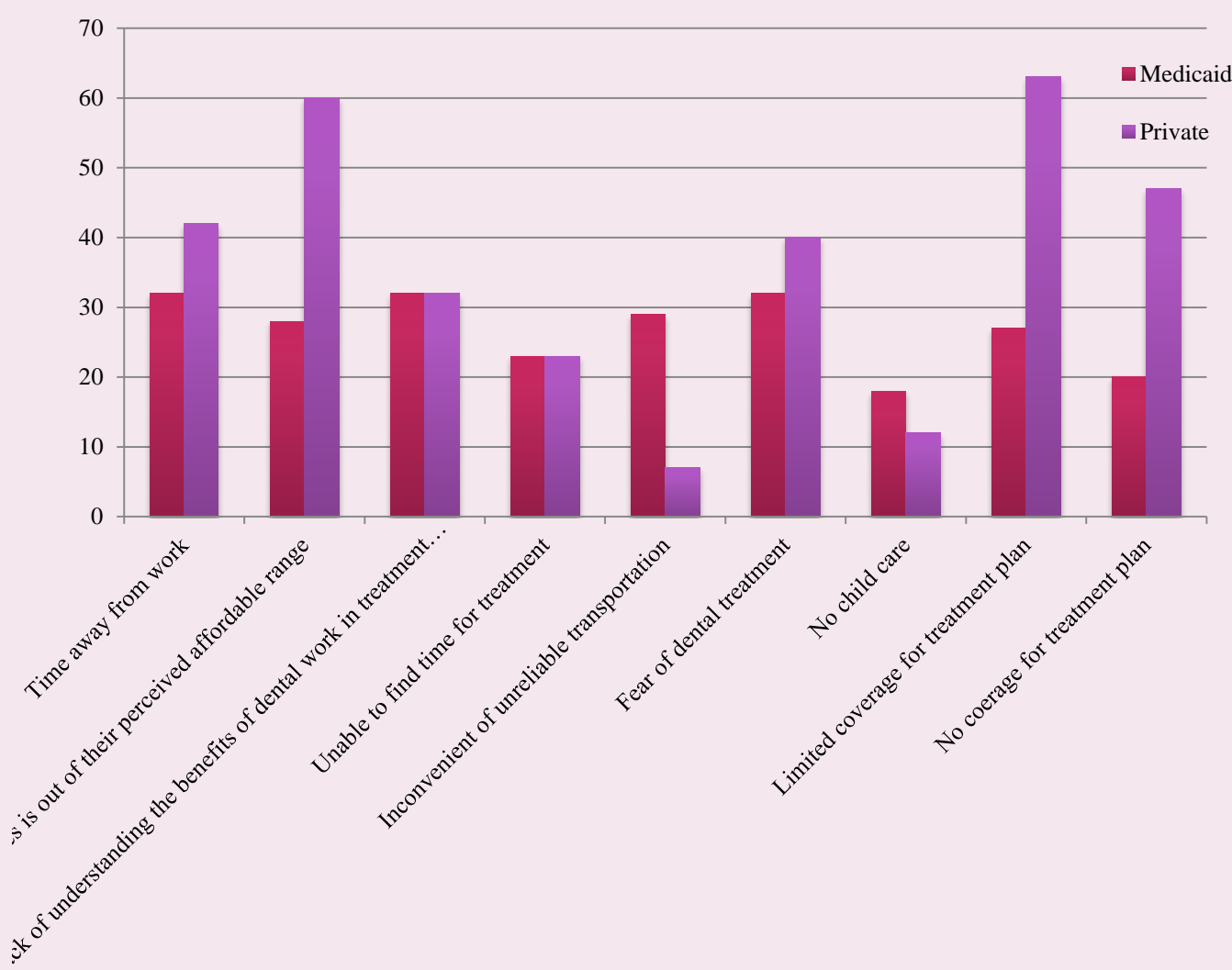
## Data Analysis

Analysis of the survey results by Chi Square testing demonstrated:

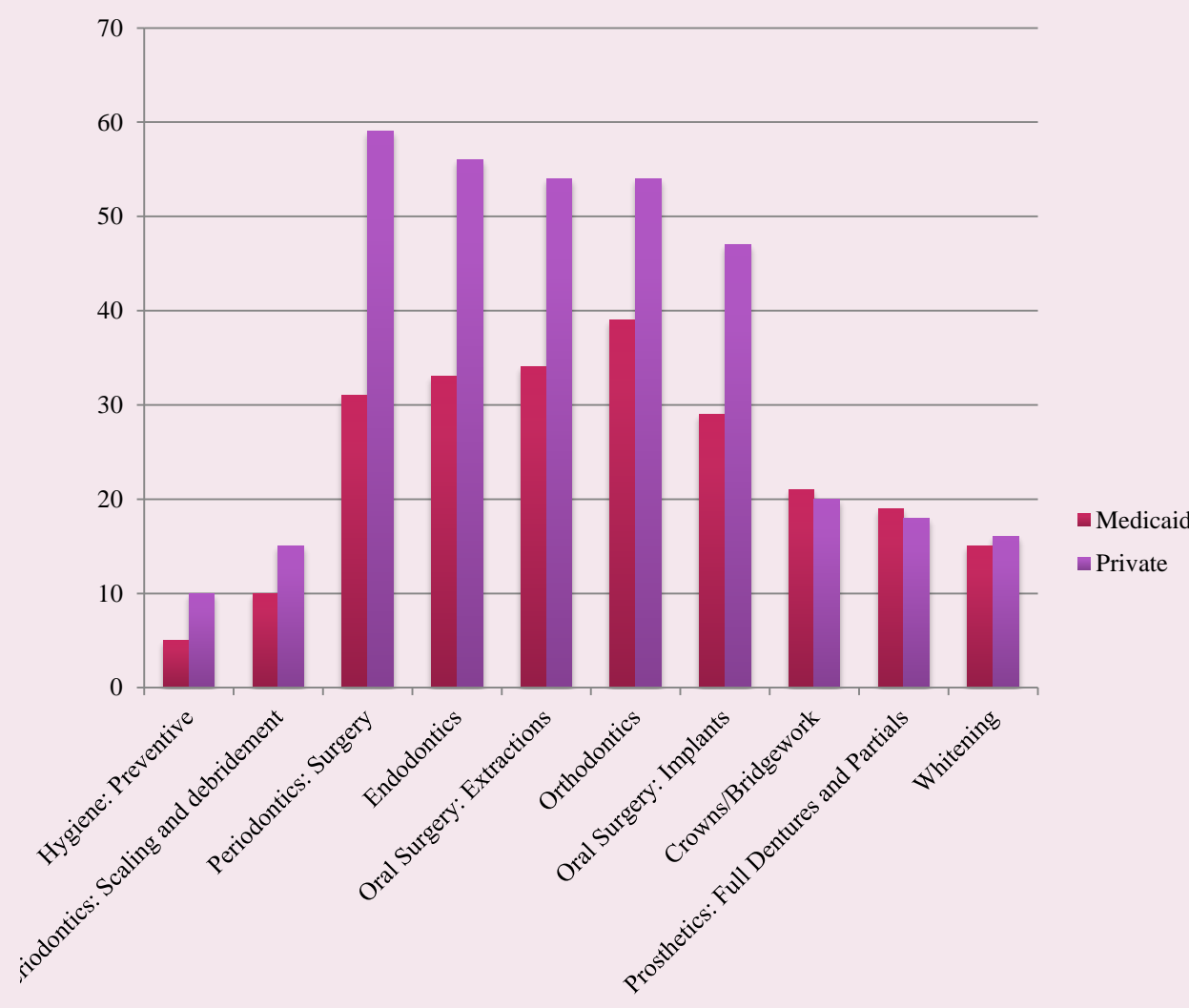
- A Significant difference in services provided and treatment options provided to the Medicaid patient versus the privately insured dental patient
- A significant difference with the association between services offered to patients with Medicaid insurance and services offered to patients with insurance other than Medicaid
- No significant difference in referral given for dental treatment to either patient insured by Medicaid, private insurance, other insurance or cash payment

## Results

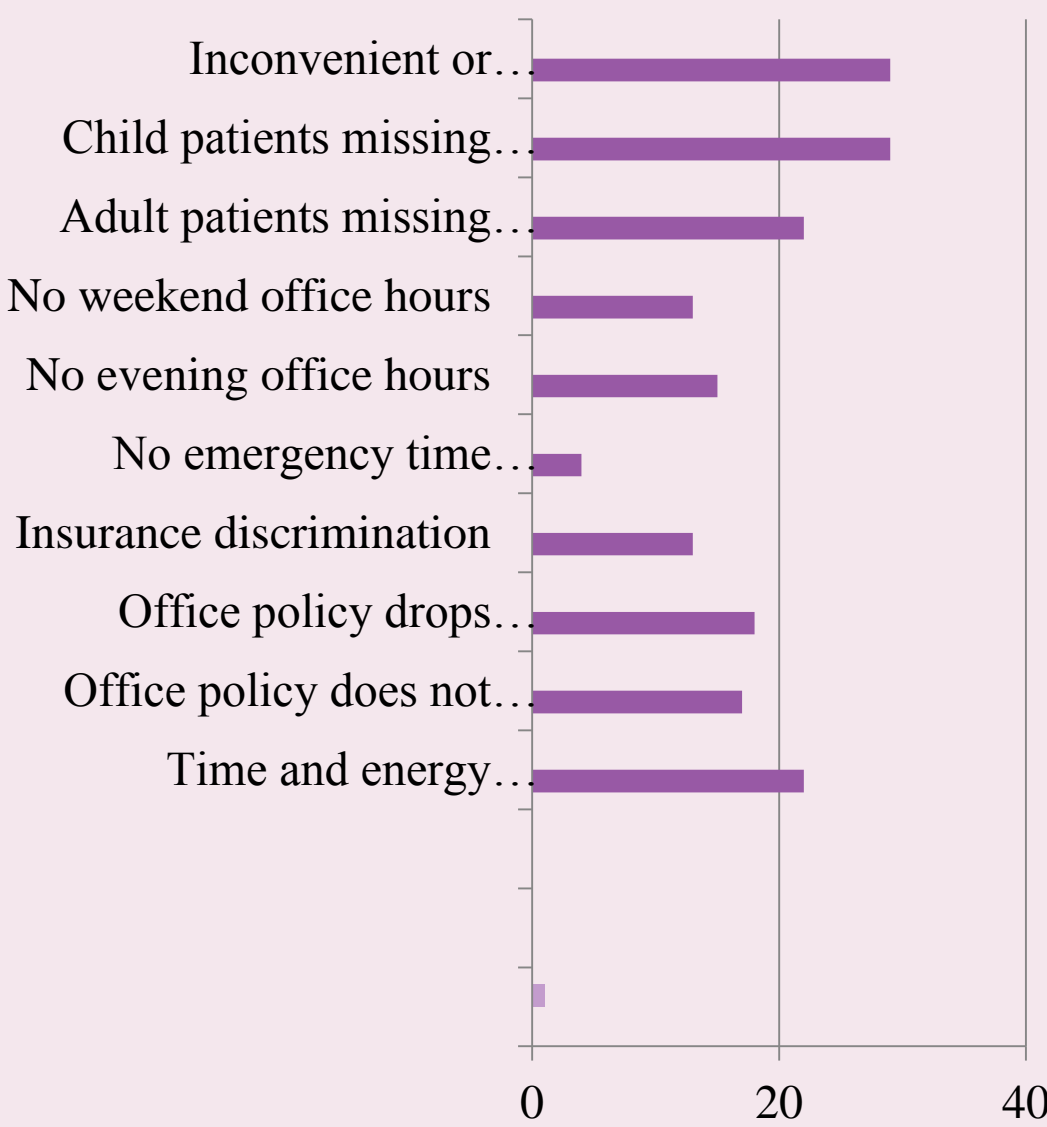
Comparison of services offered Medicaid versus Insurance Other than Medicaid



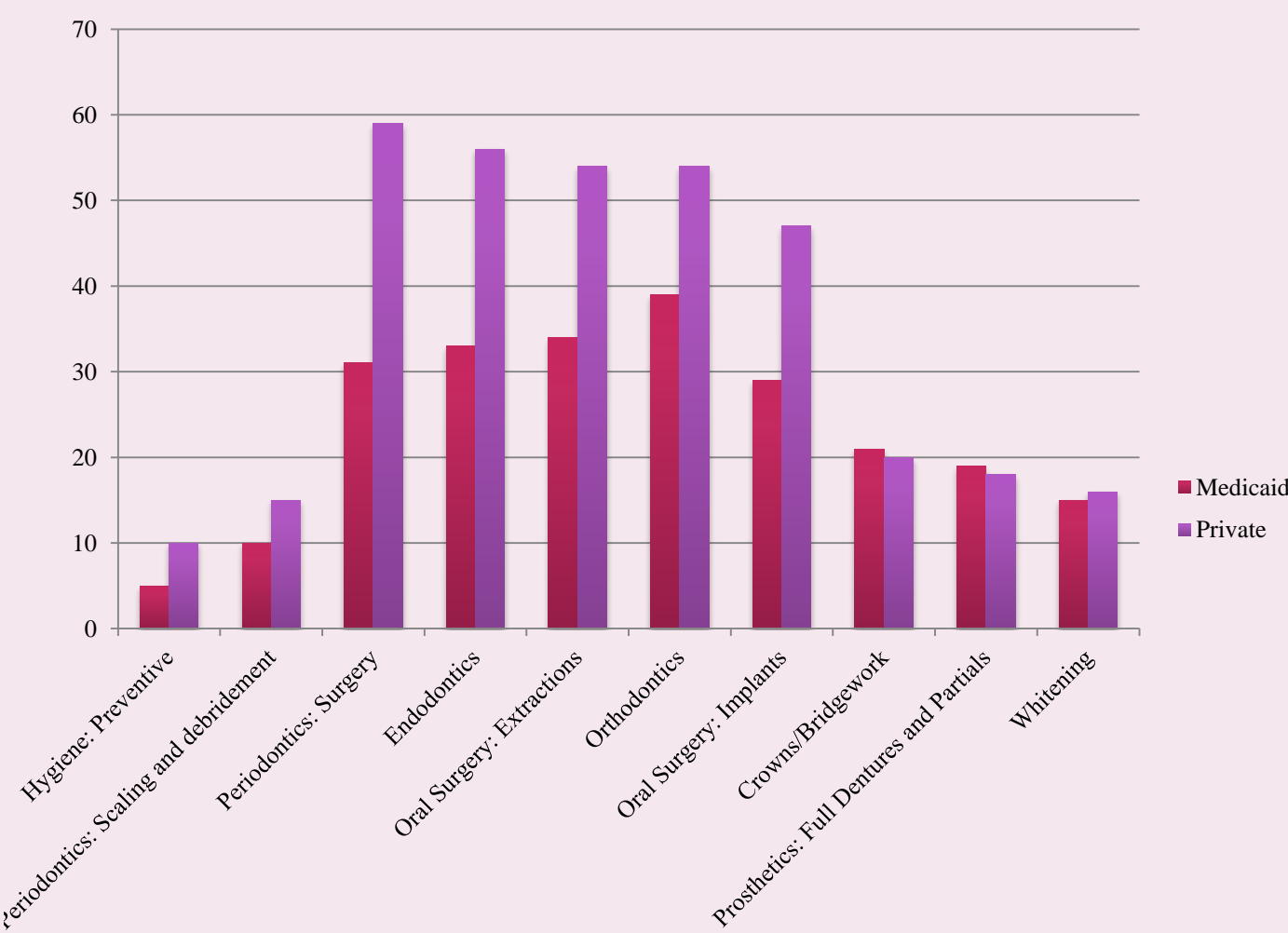
Limitation Comparison Medicaid versus Payment Other than Medicaid



Appointment Barriers



Comparison of Referrals Medicaid Versus Insurance Other than Medicaid



Comparison of Coverage, Medicaid versus Payment other than Medicaid

